



Metals Manufacturing

Students learn the materials, techniques and how to apply it in the workplace

By Maryam Battah

At Lincoln, students interested in pursuing careers in metals manufacturing can take four years of classes to learn what they need to know and to perfect the practice of what they learn.

Even before they finish high school, through an aggressive cooperative school-to-work externship program, LHS students can find work in well-paying entry level positions.

For many, those part-time positions during high school can lead to full-time employment after high school. In fact, 10 of last year's seniors have such jobs with local Macomb County manufacturers.

"Sadly, says metal shop instructor John Kovalchuck, "in a time when so many people are looking for meaningful and financially rewarding work, I have more Shop and CNC co-op openings than I can fill."

The LHS program starts with the class Introduction to Manufacturing open to students in Grades 9 through 12. Here students learn basic tool handling and machine operation as well as shop safety.

By the end of the class, students can safely operate lathe, mills and grinders, as well as employ a variety of hand, measuring and inspection tools.

Students who successfully complete the introductory

class move on to Vocational Metals where they fabricate items of their own designs to tolerances of one-one thousandth of an inch. They take that class as often as they remain productive.

The program annually boasts several First, Second, and Third Place finishers in both the Regional and State MITES competitions. In 2007, there were over twenty including two 1st Divisional Award winners in David VanDerHeyden and Richard Schoenbeck.

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